

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 18-26, 32-35 and 37-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12, 13, and 18 were rejected, and claims 7-9, 11, 14, 15, and 19 were objected to.

Claims 20-26, 32-35 and 37-44 are allowed. Claims, 1-3, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, and 27-31 have been canceled, and claims 7-9, 11, 14, 19, 21-23, and 44 have been amended herein.

Accordingly, claims 7-9, 11, 14-15, 19-26, 32-35, and 37-44 remain active in the application. In view of the claim amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12-13, and 18 were rejected. These claims have been canceled in the application so that the allowable claims can issue. Applicant traverses the rejections and reserves the right to re-present the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-26, 32-35, and 37-44 were allowed. Claims 7, 11, 14, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome the Examiner's objection. Claims 8-9, and 15 are now allowable as being based on allowable independent claims. Claims 21-23, and 44 have been amended to correct ambiguity in the preamble as suggested by the Examiner in the previous office action.

Conclusion

No new matter has been added. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 7-9, 11, 14-15, 19-26, 32-35 and, 37-44 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

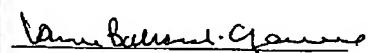
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number 1-703-872-9306, on January 5, 2004.


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